

IMPERIAL ORDINANCE
CONCERNING THE HOUSE OF PEERS

We, in accordance with the express provision of the Constitution of the Empire of Japan, hereby promulgate, with the advice of Our Privy Council, the present Ordinance concerning the House of Peers; as to the date of its being carried out, We shall issue a special order.

(His Imperial Majesty's Sign-Manual) (Privy Seal)

Article I. - The House of Peers shall be composed of the following Members:

1. The Members of the Imperial Family.
2. Princes and Marquises.
3. Counts, Viscounts and Barons who have been elected thereto by the members of their respective orders.
5. Persons who have been nominated by the Emperor by virtue of election by and from among the Members of the Imperial Academy.
6. Persons who have been elected, one Member or two Members for Hokkaido and each Fu (City) and Ken (Prefecture), by and from among the taxpayers of the highest amount of direct national taxes on land, industry or trade therein, and who have been nominated thereto by the Emperor.

Article II. - The male members of the Imperial Family shall take seats in the House on reaching their majority.

Article III. - The members of the orders of Princes and of Marquises shall become Members on reaching the age of full thirty years.

The Member mentioned in the preceding Paragraph may by Imperial permission resign the membership.

Any person who has resigned the Membership in accordance with the provisions of the preceding Paragraph may again become a Member by Imperial Orders.

Article IV. - The members of the orders of Counts, Viscounts, and Barons, who, after reaching the age of full thirty years, have been elected by the members of their respective orders, shall become Members for a term of seven years. Rules for their election shall be specially determined by Imperial Ordinance.

The quotas of the Members mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall be 18 Counts, 66 Viscounts, and 66 Barons.

Article V. - Any man of the age of not less than full thirty years, who had been nominated by the Emperor as a Member on account of meritorious services to the State, or for erudition, shall be a life Member.

The number of the Members mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall not exceed 125.

When any Member mentioned in the preceding Paragraph has become incapable of performing his functions owing to bodily or mental enfeeblement, the House of Peers shall pass a vote to that effect and submit the matter to the Emperor for His decision.

Rules governing the voting mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall be decided upon by the House of Peers and submitted to the Emperor for His sanction.

From men of the age of not less than full thirty years shall be elected by and from among the members of the Imperial Academy. When the persons thus elected have received their nomination from the Emperor, they shall be Members for a term of seven years during such period as they remain members of the Imperial Academy. Rules for their election shall be specially determined by Imperial Ordinance.

Article VI. - Men of the age of not less than full thirty years shall be elected in Hokkaido and each Fu and Ken, one by and from among 100 taxpayers of the highest amount of direct national taxes on land, industry or trade therein, or two by and from among 200 such taxpayers. When the persons thus elected have received their nomination from the Emperor, they shall be Members for a term of seven years. Rules for their election shall be specially determined by Imperial Ordinance.

The total number of the Members mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall not exceed 66, and the quota for Hokkaido and each Fu and Ken shall, by Imperial Order, be prescribed according to population at each Ordinary Election.

Article VII. - Deleted.

Article VIII. - The House of Peers shall, when consulted by the Emperor, vote upon rules concerning the privileges of the peerage.

Article IX. - The House of Peers decides upon the qualification of its members and upon disputes concerning elections thereto. The rules for these decisions shall be passed upon by the House of Peers and submitted to the Emperor for His sanction.

Article X. - When a Member has been sentenced to confinement, or to any severe punishment, or has been declared bankrupt, he shall be expelled by Imperial Order.

With respect to the expulsion of a Member, as a disciplinary punishment in the House of Peers, the President shall report the facts to the Emperor for His decision.

Any Member that has been expelled shall be incapable of again becoming a member, unless permission so to do has been granted by the Emperor.

Article XI. - The President and the Vice-President shall be nominated by the Emperor from among the Members for a term of seven years.

If an elected Member is nominated President or Vice-President, he shall serve in that capacity for the term of his Membership.

Article XII. - Every matter, other than what has been provided for in the present Imperial Ordinance, shall be dealt with according to the provisions of the Law of the Houses.

Article XIII. - When in the future any amendment or addition is to be made in the provisions of the present Imperial Ordinance, the matter shall be submitted to the vote of the House of Peers.

Supplementary Provisions.
(Imperial Ordinance No. 174, 1925)

Of the present Ordinance, the amended provisions of Article 4, and also of Item 6 in Article 1 and of Article 6 shall each come into force beginning with the Ordinary Election to be held in 1925, and the other amended provisions shall come into force as from the date of the first Ordinary Election to be held.

Persons who, at the time of the coming into force of the amended provisions of Article 3, are members under the provisions of Item 2 in Article 1 shall be Members notwithstanding the amended provisions of the first Paragraph of Article 3.

The term of office of Members who have been nominated by the Emperor under the provisions of Item 5 in the unamended former Article 1 and whose term of office expires in 1925 shall be governed by the unamended former provisions. In cases where the expiration of the term of office of such Members is prior to the date of the Ordinary Election of Members under the amended provisions of Article 1 to be held in 1925, the said term of office shall be prolonged to the day preceding the said date.